

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 SS-20 NSC-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:JFC

12/30/73 EXT. 22670

APPROVED BY NEA - J.J. SISCO

NEA/ARN - MR. SCOTES

EUR/WE - MR. JOHNSON

NEA - ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252376

FOR PAGANELLI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OGEN, SCOTES, THOMAS J.

SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. INTERESTS SECTION CHIEF TO
DAMASCUS

1. EMBASSY SHOULD TELL FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT, PURSUANT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT ASAD OF WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED ITALIANS, WE ARE ASSIGNING FSO THOMAS J. SCOTES TO HEAD U.S. INTERESTS SECTION OF ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS. SCOTES WILL HAVE TITLE OF COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR AGREEMENT WITH SYRIANS, WILL HAVE AN AMERICAN STAFF OF FOUR. SCOTES WILL BE ACCOMPANIED THROUGH ROME AND TO DAMASCUS BY FSO GARY LEE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.

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2. SCOTES WILL DEPART WASHINGTON EVENING JANUARY 1 VIA TWA 734 AND WILL ARRIVE ROME JANUARY 2 AT 11:40 A.. EMBASSY SHOULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO MAKE COURTESY CALLS ON APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. SCOTES AND LEE WILL DEPART ROME AFTERNOON JANUARY 2 FOR BEIRUT VIA AL ITALIA 720 AT 6:40 P.M., ARRIVING BEIRUT 10:40 P.M. HE PLANS ARRIVE DAMASCUS MORNING JANUARY 3 BY CAR.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD ASK THAT AMBASSADOR BUCCI AND CARDILLI BE INFORMED OF FOREGOING AND CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S WARM APPRECIATION FOR CARDILLI'S SERVICES (FYI: WE WILL BE PREPARING APPROPRIATE MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TO ITALIANS FOR DESPATCH EARLY IN JANUARY. END FYI). SCOTES LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH AMBASSADOR BUCCI AND WILL WANT TO CALL ON HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL. WE WOULD HOPE CARDILLI COULD STAY ON FOR BRIEF PERIOD AFTER SCOTES ARRIVAL FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH HIM. WE OF COURSE PLAN TO HAVE SCOTES OCCUPY DAMASCUS RESIDENCE AS SOON AS CARDILLI MOVES OUT.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD TELL FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT DEPARTMENT IS INFORMING SARG THROUGH SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO UN OF SCOTES ASSIGNMENT AND ARRIVAL PLANS, BUT ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS MAY ALSO WISH TO CONVEY THIS TO SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. EMBASSY MAY TELL FOREIGN MINISTRY WE PLAN MAKE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT RE ASSIGNMENT OF AMERICAN OFFICERS TO ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS, BUT WILL OF COURSE ROUTINELY CONFIRM FACT IN LOW KEY IF ASKED. MEANWHILE ITALIANS SHOULD CONTINUE TO HOLD THIS CLOSELY.

6. FOR BEIRUT: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR MEETING SCOTES AND LEE, MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR NIGHT JANUARY 2 AND PROVIDING EMBASSY CAR TO TAKE THEM TO DAMASCUS MORNING JANUARY 3 FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE EMBASSY PERSONNEL. RUSH

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